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EMA guidelines

THE TGA is calling for submissions relating to the adoption of eight of European Medicines Agency guidelines for Australia.

Submissions close 19 Aug, with topics including repeated dose toxicity, photosafety testing, genotoxicity testing and impurities and more - for details [CLICK HERE](#).

Bio-Oil stir set to continue

UNITED Prestige, the importing company which has excited considerable interest by promoting itself as an alternate source of a range of products including Bio-Oil, says it's been overwhelmed with enquiries about the product after the offering was promoted in *Pharmacy Daily* (PD 20 May).

CEO Andrew Christopher told *PD* yesterday that "hundreds of chemists have rung Prestige for Bio-Oil," adding that he's determined to dramatically increase the supply of the product in order for more pharmacies to be able to save.

He said that in the next couple of weeks his company will introduce a direct online service for pharmacies to buy the product direct.

"We are on a mission to be as competitive as we can be on Bio-Oil, assisting independents to buy better and be more competitive,"

Christopher added.

He said that United Prestige's price has not changed despite a 14% drop in the Australian dollar, and thanked the local pharmacy industry for its support.

Following the company's original announcement, Aspen Australia, which says it holds the exclusive license to distribute Bio-Oil in Australia, said it accepts no responsibility for the quality of products not purchased via the "official channel" (PD 13 Jun).

Aspen confirmed that the United Prestige offering has generated "confusion in the market".

TGA probes Voluven

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has commenced a full risk benefit review of products containing hydroxyethyl starch, which is used in clinical situations to treat and prevent a condition known as hypovolaemia.

Two products are registered in Australia which contain this compound - Voluven and Voulyte - both of which are sponsored by Fresenius Kabi.

The TGA is looking into the substance following recent publications which have indicated that the use of hydroxyethyl starch is associated with an increased mortality as well as an increased risk of requiring dialysis when used in certain patient populations - in particular in patients with sepsis.

Authorities in the US, Canada and the UK have all released statements about the use of these products.

While the TGA is undertaking its review it has asked Fresenius Kabi to update the product information for Voluven and Voulyte to add contraindications for use in sepsis patients with severe liver disease.

Melanoma resource

MELANOMA Patients Australia, in partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb, has released a new book which aims to help families take on the task of explaining an advanced melanoma diagnosis to children.

'Medikidz Explain Advanced Melanoma' utilises superheroes to describe the symptoms of the disease, how it's diagnosed and the various stages, using a comic book format and scenarios to which children and families can relate.

Melanoma is Australia's third most common cancer, with over 12,000 diagnoses every year.

For copies of the book and more info see melanomapatients.org.au.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGA Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of managing the risk associated with the use of medications in hospitals, as a key way of reducing the possibility of iatrogenic harm.

The bulletin can be viewed at no charge by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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PSA joins the chorus on education cap

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has united with a wide range of professional and industry peak bodies, including the Pharmacy Guild (PD Mon) to urgently seek an end to govt plans to impose a \$2000 cap on self-education expenses.

The cap was announced in the Budget and covers costs associated with education expenses including all travel, accommodation, conference and tuition fees.

PSA National President Grant Kardachi and CEO Liesel Wett joined representatives from the pharmacy, medical, accounting, legal, engineering, veterinary, nursing and other professions to urge the proposal be scrapped.

“When the government is seeking to reduce health costs through a healthier population it is incongruous that it is proposing a move which will greatly curtail the ability of many health professionals, including pharmacists, to maintain a level of expertise and knowledge that would help the government see its goals met in the long term,” Mr Kardachi said.

“A survey of our more than 18,000 members found two thirds have annual education outlays of more than \$2000 and 80 per cent said their employers did not reimburse them for educational expenses.

“Most disturbingly, 82 per cent of respondents said a \$2000 cap would cause them to decrease their educational activities,” he added, with PSA urging members to ask their local MPs to scrap the cap.

Amcal is heading online

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals yesterday launched a new look Amcal website, with the company saying it's the “first stage in an exciting period of development for Amcal's online presence”.

According to Sigma chief operating officer, Gary Dunne, the company is committed to delivering consumers a “multi-channel shopping experience that vertically integrates with bricks and mortar”.

He said the new site, which offers full e-commerce facilities including an online shopping basket and credit card payments, has been developed with both the pharmacist and the consumer in mind, providing Amcal pharmacies with “another platform to showcase their expertise and services”.

The relaunched website, now online at www.amcal.com.au also offers detailed product information, reviews, health content and delivery options, with a quick and simple check out mechanism and

Seniors home care

THE first Home Care packages for older Australians have been announced by Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Senator Jacinta Collins, as part of more than \$500 million in new annual aged care funding.

Home Care Packages are specially tailored to older people's care needs while living in their own homes, funding services including personal care, house cleaning and home modifications, transport and clinical care.

a “consistent shopping experience that complements our pharmacies.

“This is an exciting and important milestone for Sigma as it is another step in our growth strategy and further builds the profile of our brands and our pharmacists,” Dunne said, adding that a new-look website for Sigma's Guardian brand would also launch shortly.

GPs unconvinced

RESEARCH commissioned by Flora pro-activ has revealed that many Australian doctors remain unconvinced about the cholesterol lowering efficacy of plant sterol enriched foods.

43% of GPs surveyed said they were ‘unsure’ if the scientific evidence supporting the use of plant sterols was adequate for them to recommend the use of such products to patients, although 80% believed dietary changes were effective in lowering cholesterol.

For people with high blood cholesterol the Heart Foundation recommends eating 2-3 grams of plant sterols daily.

Ranbaxy staff cuts

UP to 400 Ranbaxy staff may be affected by a widespread retrenchment of executives at senior and middle management levels, according to India's *Economic Times* newspaper.

Executives from the Finance, R&D and Active Pharma Ingredient departments are reported to have been handed pink slips last week in the wake of Ranbaxy's legal troubles, which have seen the company agree to pay half a billion dollars to settle cases brought by US authorities.

The US state of Idaho has confirmed that it has received about \$420,000 as its part of the settlement, addressing “losses to the Idaho Medicaid program caused by individuals and companies,” according to an official statement from Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden.

TGA recruiting MOs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is advertising opportunities for medical officers, at various levels, in both full and part time positions - [CLICK HERE](#).

WIN A PAIR OF CANCER COUNCIL SUNGLASSES



This week *Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with **Cancer Council Australia** and today is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a pair of Cancer Council ‘Bondi’ sunglasses (pictured left).

Cancer Council eyewear offers the highest level of sun protection, for your ultimate comfort and protection all Cancer Council sunglasses conform to Australian Standard AS1067:2003; carry the max eye protection factor rating of 10; eliminate 100% of horizontally reflected glare; are fitted with polarised lenses.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

All answers can be found by [clicking here](#) and downloading the catalogue.

Sunglasses worn with a broadbrim hat can protect the eyes from UV radiation exposure by up to how much?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Cathy Martin** from **HNE Pharmacy Services**.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Skincare from celebrity gardener Jamie Durie

People for Plants has launched into pharmacy as a new certified organic skincare range. International award-winning horticulturalist, landscape designer, professional stripper and TV personality Jamie Durie has used his life-long passion and expert knowledge of botany to help create the products which has been more than three years in the making, in partnership with organic farmers and innovators Andrew Brown and Anna Addicoat with the guiding principles of keeping it natural, organic and pure. There are 22 products in total including cleansers, face oils, lip balms and body care products.

Stockists: 1800 221 739

RRP: From \$9.95 through to \$29.95

Website: www.peopleforplants.com.au



New ASCOM members

PHARMACIST Michael Ward from the University of SA's School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences has been appointed to the TGA's Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines.

Also joining ASCOM is David Le Couteur, Sydney University's Professor of Geriatric Medicine.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A 92-YEAR-OLD Iraqi farmer married a woman 70 years his junior in a village north of Baghdad last week, as part of a triple wedding ceremony in which he was wed alongside two of his teenage grandchildren who also tied the knot.

Musali Mohammed al-Mujamaie married 22-year-old Muna Mukhlif al-Juburi on Thursday evening, three years after the death of his first wife of 58 years, with whom he raised 16 children in his home village of Gubban, which lies just south of the central Iraqi city of Samarra.

"I am so happy to get married with my grandsons," Mujamaie told *AFP* after the ceremony.

"I feel like a 20-year-old!"

Mujamaie said the marriage was repeatedly delayed so that the three could tie the knot on the same day.

The wedding, attended by local tribal and religious leaders, carried on for four hours, with musical and dance performances and celebratory gunfire.

It's a great example of healthy ageing - as long as the sprightly nonagenarian survives the wedding night.

THERE'S been a cholesterol alert in the appropriately named Death Valley in the USA, where tourists are being asked to stop frying eggs on the road in a sweltering 50 degree Celsius heatwave.

Authorities are concerned because the travellers are leaving behind a mess of runny eggs, cartons and shells in the area as they create their photo opportunities.

The cosmetic surgeon's secret to minimise scars

SciGen Australia's **Strataderm** and **Stratamed** are Swiss-developed silicone gel-based products, which as well as being integrated into post procedural care protocols to reduce scarring, are also available in pharmacy. Stratamed is the first silicone-based scar therapy gel approved for use in open wounds and compromised skin, while Strataderm can be used for both old and new scars, to relieve itching and discomfort, soften and flatten raised scars and reduce redness and discoloration.

Stockists: SciGen Australia 02 9485 1800

RRP: \$26.96 (Strataderm 5g), \$19.95 (Stratamed 5g)

Website: www.stratamed.com and www.strataderm.com



Klorane Oat Milk Dry Shampoo - number one for pharmacy

Recent Nielsen pharmacy scan sales data has confirmed the ongoing popularity of **Klorane Dry Shampoo with Oat Milk**, which is now Australia's number one hair care product sold in pharmacy. Women love Klorane Dry Shampoo for its effective cleansing properties, with the product described as the "French stylist in the little white can". A quick spritz is all it takes to transform limp, greasy locks into clean and shiny hair, adding volume and texture for easy styling. **Klorane Dry Shampoo with Nettle**, launched 12 months ago, is also continuing to grow in popularity too, created specifically for oily hair to restore volume, texture and lightness.

Stockists: Ascent Pharmaceuticals 1800 678 302

RRP: \$12.95 (Oat milk 150mL), \$14.95 (Nettle 150mL)

Website: www.klorane.com.au



Chalk this one up to a great hair experience

Fudge Urban Chalk is the perfect way to instantly create vibrant or pastel coloured hair - without a long-term commitment. Launching this week, Fudge Chalks are simply applied by rubbing the "colour dome" wherever you want a splash, then working through with the fingers and applying hairspray to seal for instant colour and effect. Shades include Red Hot Pepper, Festival Pink, Elektrik Blue, Iced White and Pumped-up Purple.

Stockists: 03 8545 2700

RRP: \$9.95

Website: www.fudge.com

